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REGIONAL BOARD EXECUTIVE OFFICER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

SACRAMENTO-Tom Pinkos, executive officer with the Central Valley Regional Water Board, announced his retirement from the Board at the end of 2005.

"Tom has spent more than 30 years working to improve the quality of California's recreational, agricultural and drinking water. The Central Valley Water Board has relied on Tom's expertise for many years and will miss him. I am particularly pleased that he has agreed to stay on through the end of the year to ensure a smooth transition to a new Executive Officer," said Bob Schneider, Chair of the Central Valley Water Board. "We wish him the best in his retirement."

"You're a class act," said Board member Al Brizard.
Board member Karl Longley said, "We greatly appreciate the leadership you have provided."

After making his announcement Pinkos said, "The future of the board is bright and exciting."

Pinkos, who was appointed as executive officer in October 2002, is responsible for protecting the quality and beneficial uses of surface waters and groundwater in the Central Valley of California, from the Oregon border to the Bakersfield area. Under his leadership, the Central Valley Regional Board has faced a number of high profile, controversial and difficult issues including contaminated drainage from agricultural lands and wastes from dairies and food processors.

Pinkos, who holds a law degree from McGeorge School of Law, was admitted into the State Bar in 1981.

He earned his engineering degree studying Environmental Engineering at Stanford University in 1976, and earned a Master's degree in Water Resources Engineering and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering both from the University of Michigan in 1970 and 1973.

Before being named the executive officer, Pinkos held several positions at the Regional Board including Assistant Executive Officer, a Supervising Engineer, a Senior Engineer, and an Associate Engineer. He also worked at the State and the San Diego Water Boards.

Pinkos began his professional career as an Environmental Engineer for the State of Wisconsin, Department of Natural Resources.

The Regional Board will immediately begin the search for a new Executive Officer.

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